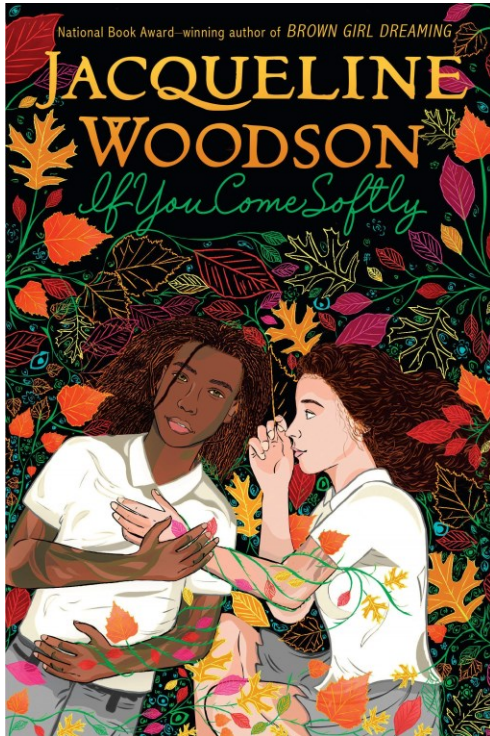


IF YOU COME SOFTLY



Young Adult

By Jacqueline Woodson

ISBN: 978-0-14-241522-1

Book Summary:

Two young teenagers begin dating each other, one white and one black. Their interest in one another sparks introspection into they and their families' racism.

Summary of Concerns:

This book contains controversial racial commentary; controversial social commentary; and derogatory term.

1
/5

Child Guidance
BookLooks Review Rating

Page	Content
Preface	...What I didn't know was that a book I was writing in the mid-nineties would not only continue to resonate with many but would become relevant to more and more people as the use of social media grew, as groups like Black Lives Matter formed, as the cases of police brutality skyrocketed.
5	Just one step and somehow the weight of his skin seemed to change. It got heavier. Light-skinned brothers- well, yeah- sometimes he caught himself making fun of them.
11	Don't get too black. Black monkey.
17	One day I just kissed him, leaned forward while he was sitting beside me stuttering out a tale about his father's sailboat. I had never kissed anyone the lips and Sam's lips felt dry and hard.
38	He wasn't really allowed to drink yet, but his mother still offered and told him everything she knew about certain wines.
62	He hated when white guys tried to sound black.
66	What was he doing here with all these white boys around him? He stared at a mirror, lost. That girl in the hall. "She's white too," he whispered, the words sinking in.
69	Once Anne and I were walking through Central Park when this black guy started running toward us. I frowned, remembering how Anne had screamed, and grabbed me. When the guy got up close, we realized he was a jogger, not a mugger or anything, and Anne had turned red with embarrassment. I started walking again. Would Anne have reacted that way if the guy had been white? ...Imagine two babies born- one white, one black. Maybe their mothers shared the same hospital room and talked low- when all the excited visitors were gone and the hospital was heavy with sleep- about their futures. Talked about their dreams for the babies, long after the two A.M. feeding was over. I used to think that all those babies needed was some kind of chance- and a mother's dream for them. I was so...so silly back then. Naïve.
70	But where were they then- these black people who were just like us- who were equal to us? Why weren't they coming over for dinner? Why weren't thy playing golf with Daddy on Saturdays or quilting with Maion on Thursday nights? Why weren't they in our world, around us, a part of us?
83	"Your daddy still shacking up with Lois Ann?"
88	"I met this girl at school- this white girl." ..."I don't know. I just never really thought about that- about dating a white girl."
89	"But she's white."
135	"That's true. But you also have to take it a step deeper 'cause you're black. They're not 'those churches,' they're black churches and because they're black churches, they affect you."
136	...holding hands when these white boys started acting stupid- saying stuff like "jungle fever" and "who turned out the lights?"

Page	Content
	...Who gets up in the morning, looks in the mirror, and says, 'I'm white so what am I gonna do with this- how am I going to use it to change the world?'"
143	Ever since he was a little boy, his father had always warned him about running in white neighborhoods. Once, when he was about ten, he had torn away from his father and taken off down Madison Avenue. When his father caught up to him, he grabbed Miah's shoulder. Don't you ever run in a white neighborhood, he'd whispered fiercely, tears in his eyes.
164	"Times like that, I hate white people. Then I have to ask myself, How can I hate white people and love you?" He smiled.
175	Then he asks me if I ever forgot I was white. Sometimes, I said. And when you're forgetting, what color are you? No color. ...And now, sitting between my pale mother and father, I cannot forget I am white with so many brown and black and gold faces around us.
186	Miah has a friend, Carlton, who is mixed racially but considers himself African American. What issues do biracial and mixed racial people face? If You Come Softly deals with a classic them of the challenge of loving someone outside of your own group.

Derogatory Term	Count
Monkey	1